

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSF-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09 SS-15 SP-02
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R 180720Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0481

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FOR OES/ENP/EN

DEPT PASS TO EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: JOINT PLANNING AND COORDINATION MEETING: US-JAPAN
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT

REF: (A) STATE 200917; (B) STATE 199877; (C) TOKYO 14519

1. ON AUG. 17, MOFA PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH VERBAL COMMENTS ON PART OF THE REVISED AGENDA REFTEL (A), CONCERNING (1) TOPICS FOR POLICY-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AND (2) TOPICS TO BE SELECTED BY GOJ. FORMAL RESPONSES TO THE REVISED AGENDA INCORPORATING COMMENTS ON THESE AND OTHER PARTS OF AGENDA WILL BE SUBMITTED TO USG THRU GOJ EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN A FEW DAYS.

2. CONCERNING TOPICS FOR POLICY-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS, GOJ NOW PROPOSES (1) TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL AND (2) ENERGY/ ENVIRONMENT (ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION VS ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL). GOJ IS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS IRON AND STEEL CONTROLS AND PRACTICES FOR REASONS GIVEN
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PARA 3 BELOW, BUT IS PREPARED TO COMPLY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IF USG STRONGLY REQUESTS.

3. GOJ WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE FULL EXPLANATIONS ON IRON AND STEEL CONTROLS AND PRACTICES AND CAUTIONS US SIDE THAT IT CANNOT EXPECT VERY USEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BECAUSE GOJ HAS NO ACCESS TO PROPRIETARY

TECHNOLOGY FOR CONTROL OF STEEL PLANT COKE OVEN EMISSIONS.
ALL THAT CAN BE EXPECTED OF GOJ DELEGATION AT MEETING WILL
BE EXPLANATION OF EMISSION STANDARDS AND REGULATORY PLANS
AND OBJECTIVES. GOJ HAS NO STANDARDS FOR PERFORMANCE OF
CONTROL EQUIPMENT.

4. ON TOPICS TO BE SELECTED BY GOJ, MOFA WILL PROPOSE
SIX SUCH TOPICS OF WHICH GOJ EXPECTS USG TO SELECT TWO OR

THREE. NO SPECIFIC INFO ON THE SIX TOPICS PROVIDED YET.
THEY WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO USG AS PART OF FORMAL
RESPONSES.

5. COMMENT: APPARENTLY THERE HAD BEEN MUCH DEBATE AMONG
GOJ AGENCIES CONCERNED (MOFA, MITI, EA, ETC.) ON IRON AND
STEEL CONTROLS SINCE WE PRESENTED REVISED AGENDA SEVERAL
DAYS EARLIER. THERE WAS EVERY INDICATION THAT GOJ IS
TAKING VERY SERIOUS VIEW OF THIS PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM.
OUR REPEATED EXPLANATIONS OF OBJECTIVE AND NATURE OF
PROPOSED EPA STEEL PLANT VISIT HAVE FALLEN ON DEAF EARS.
IN LIGHT OF THE VERY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE BEING ASSUMED BY
GOJ ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE, IT APPEARS THAT WE HAVE
REACHED A POINT WHERE SOLUTION MUST BE SOUGHT BY DIFFERENT
MEANS--SUCH AS EPA REQUESTING AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL
INSTITUTE TO APPROACH ITS JAPANESE COUNTERPART TO SEEK
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LATTER'S UNDERSTANDING ON PURPOSE OF AND AGREEMENT TO
MISSION. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT AGREE WITH GOJ POSITION THAT
IT CANNOT INFLUENCE STEEL COMPANIES TO GRANT ACCESS TO EPA
ENGINEERS UNDER PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS, WE ALSO RECOGNIZE
THAT GOJ MUST BALANCE SEVERAL CONFLICTING VIEWS ON ARRIVING
AT AN OVERALL POSITION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH
HEARING FROM EPA ON FEASIBILITY OF USING A PRIVATE
APPROACH TO JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY RATHER THAN THE
GOVERNMENTAL ONE WHICH HAS NOT BEEN VERY EFFECTIVE.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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